



## General Assembly

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN  
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS  
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,  
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Fifth session

Paris, 6-17 June 1994

Agenda item 3

### REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

Note by the Secretariat

#### I. SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION

1. By its Resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly established a Special Voluntary Fund, administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary General of the United Nations, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process.
2. During the past sessions of the negotiating Committee several countries indicated their contributions to the Fund, and others indicated their intention to contribute as soon as their internal procedures would permit. The Chairman of the Committee urged Governments in a position to do so but which have not yet done so to contribute to the Special Voluntary Fund according to their possibilities at an early date.
3. The current status of pledges and receipts is shown in the following table:

**Special Voluntary Fund for participation of developing countries**  
**(General Assembly resolution 47/188, para 15)**  
**Status of contributions as of 27 May 1994**

|                             | Pledges          | Contributions    | Receipt  | Date     |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|
|                             | (US dollars)     |                  | Number   | Received |
| <b><u>MEMBER STATES</u></b> |                  |                  |          |          |
| Austria                     | 10,000           | -                |          |          |
| Benin                       | 1,000            |                  |          |          |
| Canada                      | 77,662           | 77,662           | B 02188  | 22.06.93 |
| Denmark                     | 199,985          | 199,985          | B 021076 | 10.03.93 |
| France*                     | 159,754          | 70,358           | B 022805 | 20.10.93 |
|                             |                  | 33,641           | B 023266 | 23.12.93 |
|                             |                  | 50,020           | B 024554 | 06.05.94 |
| Germany*                    | 185,827          | 185,827          | B 0228   | 27.10.93 |
| Greece                      | 5,000            | 5,000            | B 024384 | 19.04.94 |
| Ireland*                    | 71,400           | 71,500           | B 024076 | 15.03.94 |
| Italy*                      | 93,750           | 90,744           | B 023021 | 17.11.93 |
| Japan*                      | 300,000          | 300,000          |          | 17.03.94 |
| Norway                      | 199,985          | 199,985          | B 020964 | 23.02.93 |
| Portugal                    | 25,000           | -                |          |          |
| Spain*                      | 42,024           | 42,024           | B 021923 | 28.06.93 |
| Sweden*                     | 262,280          | 262,280          | B 02098  | 25.02.93 |
| Switzerland*                | 66,013           | 66,013           | B 021975 | 07.07.93 |
| United Kingdom              | 111,727          | 74,460           | B 022033 | 19.07.93 |
|                             |                  | 37,267           | B 023205 | 16.12.93 |
| USA                         | 50,000           | 50,000           | B 021147 | 24.03.93 |
| <b><u>OTHERS</u></b>        |                  |                  |          |          |
| European Commission*        | 57,000           | -                |          |          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>1,918,407</b> | <b>1,816,766</b> |          |          |

\* Approximate US dollar equivalent of local currency pledge.

4. From contributions, 13 percent overhead costs are retained and an operating reserve (15%) maintained to cover eventual final obligations. Consequently, of total contributions amounting to US\$ 1,816,766, an amount of US\$ 1,437,342 was available to meet travel and DSA costs of participants from countries eligible for funding.
5. These resources have been used in connection with the first, second, third and fourth substantive sessions of the Committee for which total expenditures amounted to US\$ 1,216,828. In extending assistance to the countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, due attention has been paid to the particular situation of the countries concerned, as well as precedents established recently by negotiating processes on Climate Change and Biodiversity.
6. In the light of the above considerations the Secretariat issued travel authorizations for the first and second sessions, to one delegate from about 70 countries including most LDCs and a significant number of developing countries affected by desertification and drought as specified in paragraph 15 of General Assembly's resolution 47/188. For the third session, funds were available to cover only 58 countries. As indicated in document A/AC.241/20, a total additional amount of US\$ 520,705 was pledged during the third session for the Special Voluntary Fund. This amount constituted the pledges made by France, Ireland and Japan. Since then Greece has specified that its contribution for US\$ 10,000 should be split as follows: US\$ 5,000 for the Special Voluntary Fund and US\$ 5,000 for the Trust Fund.
7. As indicated in document A/AC.241/20/Add.1, issued during the Fourth session, the Secretariat received on 19 March 1994 an allotment for US\$ 266,800 issued on the basis of the Japanese and Irish contributions. This amount represented the Japanese and Irish contributions of US\$ 370,000, after deduction of 13% overhead costs and 15% operating reserve.
8. For the Fourth Session, the Secretariat covered the participation of one delegate from 27 Least Developed Countries which have sought assistance. This represents a commitment of approximately US\$ 150,000. An estimated balance of US\$ 150,000 was still available to be used in connection with travel of participants for the Fifth INCD Session.
9. During the Fourth Session, Austria, Benin and Portugal made new pledges. As indicated in the table above, the delegation of Austria pledged US\$ 10,000, the delegation of Benin pledged US\$ 1,000 and the delegation of Portugal pledged US\$ 25,000.
10. For the Fifth session, the Secretariat received on 25 May an allotment for US\$ 295,000 issued on the basis of the French, Italian and Greek contributions as well as on the use of the operating reserve under the Trust Fund.
11. During the Fifth session, the Secretariat will distribute an addendum to this document which will indicate the list of countries concerned whose participation was financed through the Special Voluntary Fund.

12. Should an arrangement be adopted for the sixth session of the INCED in order to ensure funding of one delegate from some 70 countries and Bureau members, the total amount of additional contributions required for this Fund would amount to an estimated US\$ 400,000. This estimate is subject to confirmation based on the final decision on the venue of the Sixth session. In the light of this situation, the Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to make the necessary contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund.

13. The Committee may also wish to give further guidance to the Executive Secretary concerning the adequacy of the arrangements made in respect of the use of the Fund for participation in the substantive sessions held to-date and concerning its future use.

## **II. TRUST FUND FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS**

14. The General Assembly, by its resolution 47/188, paragraph 13 decided that "the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a Trust Fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations..." It also urged "governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non governmental organizations, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund."

15. The current situation concerning pledges and contributions is shown in the following table. A number of countries which had pledged have made contributions while Germany has pledged without specifying the amount of its envisaged contributions. The Secretariat has established contacts with other countries as well as Agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations to enlist their support. UNDP has announced additional contributions in support of the negotiating process, including an amount of US\$100,000 already put at the disposal of the INCED Secretariat by UNSO. UNEP has increased its support from the level reported to the second session, including an additional pledge of US\$ 100,000 earmarked for the participation of NGOs and support to the Secretariat for the preparation of other Regional Annexes. Furthermore, the Government of Switzerland is in the process of finalizing with the Secretariat the modalities of a new contribution of US\$ 50,000 earmarked for the participation of NGOs. Finally, during the fourth session Greece has made a new pledge for US\$ 5,000.

**Trust Fund for the Negotiating Process**  
**Status of contributions as of 27 May 1994**

|                             | Pledges<br>(US dollars) | Contributions    | Receipt<br>Number | Date<br>Received |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>MEMBER STATES</u></b> |                         |                  |                   |                  |
| Australia*                  | 115,996                 | 34,915           | B 022708          | 27.07.93         |
|                             |                         | 86,075           | B 023763          | 21.03.94         |
| Canada*                     | 134,982                 | 134,982          | B 02225           | 20.07.93         |
| Cyprus                      | 1,000                   | 1,000            | B 021584          | 14.05.93         |
| Denmark                     | 200,000                 | 200,000          | B 023661          | 10.02.94         |
| Finland*                    | 91,000                  | -                |                   |                  |
| France*                     | 105,542                 | 105,542          | B 022805          | 20.10.93         |
| Germany                     | to be announced         | -                |                   |                  |
| Greece                      | 5,000                   | 5,000            | B 024387          | 19.04.94         |
| Japan*                      | 123,000                 | 123,300          |                   | 17.03.94         |
| Netherlands*                | 555,139                 | 555,139          | B 022396          | 16.09.93         |
| Norway*                     | 250,949                 | 149,978          | B 02165           | 24.05.93         |
|                             |                         | 37,993           | B 023186          | 13.12.93         |
|                             |                         | 62,978           | B 023926          | 04.03.94         |
| Spain                       | 25,000                  | -                |                   |                  |
| Sweden*                     | 125,000                 | 128,287          | B 024541          | 04.05.94         |
| Switzerland*                | 326,699                 | 60,000           | B 022257          | 20.08.93         |
|                             |                         | 65,310           | B 022042          | 19.07.93         |
|                             |                         | 60,626           | B 023462          | 10.01.94         |
|                             |                         | 120,000          | B 024524          | 03.05.94         |
| USA                         | 200,000                 | 200,000          | B 021147          | 24.03.93         |
|                             | 50,000                  | -                |                   |                  |
| <b><u>OTHERS</u></b>        |                         |                  |                   |                  |
| European Commission*        | 57,000                  | -                |                   |                  |
| UNEP                        | 400,000                 | 250,000          | A 273095          | 25.05.93         |
|                             | 50,000                  | A277756          | 22.09.93          |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>2,766,285</b>        | <b>2,431,125</b> |                   |                  |

\* Approximate US dollar equivalent of local currency pledge.

16. At the time of the adoption of resolution 47/188, the General Assembly was informed that estimated costs in 1993 and 1994 for staff and conference servicing in connection with the work of the Committee would be absorbed in the United Nations Programme Budget for those years. Three professional level posts and four general service posts were provided from the regular budget for 1993, and two senior posts were loaned from the resources of the Department of Administration and Management. For 1994, the two senior level posts have been incorporated into the regular budget of INCD, and non-staff costs have been provided for at a similar level as that for 1993. The Fund was established for the purpose of supplementing the resources to be provided by the regular budget; these additional resources were required to enable the Secretariat to undertake activities designed to provide the necessary support to the negotiating process including preparatory substantive work at the national, regional and global levels. As summarized in the Aide Memoire attached to the Secretary General's note verbale, the Secretariat estimated the extrabudgetary resources needed at US\$3.2 million, to enable it to carry out the activities identified.

17. As noted in paragraph 4, overhead costs (13%) are retained and an operating reserve (15%) maintained out of contributions, the latter to ensure the availability of resources to meet eventual final commitments. Thus, from total contributions of US\$ 2,431,125 an amount of US\$ 1,750,411 was available to meet on-going expenses. At 31 March 1994, expenditures from the Fund amounted to US\$ 1,117,950. Commitments remaining for staff indicated in paragraph 14 below amount to a further estimated cost of US\$ 350,000.

18. As agreed with contributing countries, US, Canada, Switzerland, three staff members have been recruited for one year using the resources available in the Fund. France has made a contribution which has enabled the recruitment of an Associate Expert from a developing country for one year. The extra-budgetary contributions used for the recruitment of staff members by the Secretariat as well as the staff members concerned are listed under the following table:

**CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS INCD SECRETARIAT SUPPORT \***

| Donor Country                      | Contributions or Pledges | Overhead Support Costs | Secretariat/ Admin. Support | Travel | Staff & Related Costs |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| CANADA<br>LEGAL ADVISER            | 134,982                  | 17,548                 |                             | 10,000 | 107,434 <sup>1)</sup> |
| SWITZERLAND<br>ECONOMIC<br>ADVISED | 225,000                  | 29,250                 |                             | 25,000 | 170,750 <sup>2)</sup> |
| USA<br>SPECIAL ADVISOR             | 250,000                  | 26,000                 |                             |        | 250,000 <sup>3)</sup> |

|                                            |                |                |               |               |                       |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| UNCDF<br>ECONOMIC<br>POLICY<br>COORDINATOR | 100,000        | 13,000         | 47,000        |               | 40,000                |
| FRANCE<br>JUNIOR<br>PROGRAMME<br>OFFICER   | 105,542        | 13,720         |               |               | 91,821 <sup>2)</sup>  |
| SWEDEN<br>ASSOCIATE LEGAL<br>ADVISER       | 128,287        | 16,677         |               |               | 111,610 <sup>4)</sup> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>943,811</b> | <b>116,195</b> | <b>47,000</b> | <b>35,000</b> | <b>771,615</b>        |

\* Up to 28 February 1994 the following amount has been spent under the chapter Secretariat Support:  
US\$ 340,534

- 1) To August 1994
- 2) To December 1994
- 3) To June 1994
- 4) To April 1995

19. Moreover, a staff member of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been seconded to the Secretariat for the duration of the negotiations. FAO has also assigned an Environmental Lawyer to assist the Secretariat on a part-time basis. The Secretariat has also been in contact with Italy and Spain to obtain the secondment of civil servants or the financing of experts. The Government of Italy has recently confirmed its willingness to second a JPO to the Secretariat. The Secretariat has also proceeded with the recruitment of an Associate Legal Adviser from a Developing Country on the basis of a contribution from the Swedish Government. Other staff members, both professional and general service, may be made available from the United Nations secretariat, other institutions or will be recruited as temporary staff financed from the Fund.

20. In the framework of the negotiating process the Secretariat has also assisted a number of developing countries in their national, sub-regional and regional preparatory activities. The countries concerned by those preparatory activities and the resources allocated, are shown in the following table. These activities are being financed through the INCD Trust Fund and bilateral arrangements concluded between the recipient country and a donor country or Agency. This has been the case for the following countries: Germany, Sweden and the following United Nations Programmes: UNSO, UNDP, UNCDF. The Secretariat is in contact with other countries and international Agencies and organizations in order to obtain additional support for the preparatory activities. In this regard, the regional offices of UNDP are studying the possibility of extending such a support through the UNDP offices in the recipient countries. Some of these offices have already earmarked resources for this purpose.

|                 | Level of Advancement of the Study                                                                                                                                                                | Date of signature of the MOU | Resources foreseen | Resources allocated up-to-date | Origin of Funds                   |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>AFRICA</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                    |                                |                                   |
| <b>MALI</b>     | National Workshop 2-4 November 1993<br>General Report on the Case Study<br>Synthesis Report                                                                                                      | 07.06.93                     | 100,000            | 70,000                         | UNSO 50,000<br><br>INCD 50,000    |
| <b>TUNISIA</b>  | National Workshop 27-28 October 1993<br>* Report on the Case Study<br>* Synthesis of the Case Study<br>* National Action Programme<br>* Resumé of National Action Programme (English and French) | 15.06.93                     | 108,000            | 93,000                         | UNDP 65,000<br><br>GERMANY 43,000 |
| <b>UGANDA</b>   | National Workshop November 1993<br>Report on the Case Study                                                                                                                                      | 02.06.93                     | 106,510            | 100,000                        | SWEDEN<br>UNSO                    |
| <b>BOTSWANA</b> | Partial Report 15.02.94                                                                                                                                                                          | 17.06.93                     | 82,320             | 63,403                         | UNDP                              |
| <b>LESOTHO</b>  | Case Study                                                                                                                                                                                       |                              |                    | 20,000                         | INCD                              |
| <b>CILSS</b>    | Regional Meeting 17-18 February 1994<br>Provisional Report on Study of Women Participation                                                                                                       | 07.07.93                     | 100,000            |                                | GERMANY<br>INCD (Advance)         |

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |                |                  |              |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| UMA                            | Provisional Report Meeting of Experts for finalisation (2 days in February 1994)                                                                                                  | 13.08.93             | 90,000         | 50,000           | INCD         |
| SADC                           | Work Plan 18.01.94                                                                                                                                                                | 12.07.93<br>13.05.94 | 70,000         | 20,000<br>30,000 | INCD<br>INCD |
| IGADD                          | Final Report 19.12.93 with National Reports on Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Uganda, Erithrea, Sudan                                                                                 | 15.07.93             | 100,000        |                  | GERMANY      |
| Economic Commission for Africa | Report on Regional Case Study 15.11.93                                                                                                                                            | 05.05.93             | 25,000         | 25,000           | INCD         |
| <u>LATIN AMERICA</u>           |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |                |                  |              |
| CHILE                          |                                                                                                                                                                                   | 12.12.93             | 25,000         | 18,000           | INCD         |
| PERU                           |                                                                                                                                                                                   | 08.10.93             | 40,000         | 30,000           | INCD         |
| <u>ASIA</u>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |                |                  |              |
| TURKMENISTAN                   | * Study by the Desert Institute 13.01.94<br>* Sub-Regional Conference in Ashgabat January 1994<br>* Proposition for Asian Regional Instrument, elaborated by the Desert Institute | 26.10.93             | 30,000         | 30,000           | INCD         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      | <b>876,830</b> | <b>549,403</b>   |              |

21. The Secretariat is also financing or co-financing special studies being undertaken by the International Panel of Experts on Desertification in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations such as UNIDO and with the assistance of other Experts in order to draw to the maximum on expertise available in government, international

organizations and the private sector. These studies have been identified by the five sub-groups of IPED and are related to the following areas: (1) the linkages between drought/desertification and the global climate system/climate change, (2) the conservation and utilization of biodiversity in dryland areas, (3) the effect of drought and desertification on ground and surface water resources, (4) the development and utilization of alternative renewable energy resources in areas affected by drought and desertification, and (5) the economic and social consequences of drought and desertification. As shown below, some of these studies are already being carried out. Additional resources will be necessary to undertake the remaining studies and usefully supplement IPED resources. The following table shows the special studies being carried out as well as other activities undertaken by the Secretariat in the fulfilment of its mandate, including support to NGOs both in terms of participation to the INCD sessions as well as preparatory activities:

| Activity                                                   | Cost                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Special IPED Studies                                       |                       |
| • Energy and Desertification                               | 39,000                |
| • Biodiversity and Desertification                         | 25,000                |
| Consultancy                                                | 17,884                |
| Meeting of Experts (Almeria)                               | 35,000<br>(Estimated) |
| Information System Support                                 | 15,000                |
| Travel of Staff                                            | 56,315                |
| (direct support of case studies)                           | 22,773                |
| Travel of Participants (Experts)                           | 42,279                |
| NGOs                                                       |                       |
| • International NGO Conference on Desertification (Bamako) | 152,903               |
| • Outreach programmes                                      | 9,000                 |
| • Other Activities                                         | 24,000                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                               | <b>439,154</b>        |

22. The Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to respond to the need for contributions to the Trust Fund so as to enable the Secretariat to continue to support the activities designed to assist the negotiating process.



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THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES  
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR  
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA  
Fifth session  
Paris, 6-17 June 1994  
Agenda item 2

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBATE DESERTIFICATION  
IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,  
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Negotiating text of the regional implementation annex  
for Latin America and the Caribbean

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fourth session in Geneva, the INCED requested the Secretariat to draft for its fifth session in Paris the negotiating text of a regional implementation annex for Latin America and the Caribbean based on document A/AC.241/CRP.7, submitted by Panama on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. The text is attached for the Committee's consideration.
2. In preparing the negotiating text, the Secretariat took into careful consideration the results of meetings of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in Brazil and Chile, and statements by INCED members on this issue during the fourth session. The Secretariat also drew on written submissions received from Governments after that session, containing additional comments and drafting proposals. Finally, the Secretariat benefited from discussion of the text during the 6th meeting of the International Panel of Experts on Desertification.

Annex

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of the present annex is to provide guidelines and arrangements necessary for the efficient and practical implementation of the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean in light of the particular conditions of that region.

Article 2

Particular conditions of the Latin American  
and Caribbean region

In carrying out their obligations pursuant to the provisions of the Convention, the Parties shall take into consideration the following particular conditions of the Latin American and Caribbean region:

- (a) The large areas vulnerable to, or significantly affected by, desertification and drought, and their broad diversity;
- (b) The frequent use of unsustainable development practices in affected areas as a result of complex interactions among physical, biological, political, social, cultural and economic factors, including international economic factors such as external indebtedness, deteriorating terms of trade and trade practices which distort markets for agricultural, fishery and forestry products;
- (c) The linkage between such practices and the unsustainable use of natural resources reflected in deforestation, overgrazing, unsustainable farming practices and mismanagement of water resources; and
- (d) The serious reduction in the productivity of ecosystems in affected areas, reflected in agriculture, livestock and forest yields, the impoverishment and displacement of populations and deterioration of living standards;
- (e) The adverse impact of processes of desertification on the rich biological diversity.

Article 3

Framework for national action programmes

1. National action programmes shall be an integral part of broader national policies for sustainable development of affected country Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. A consultative and participatory process involving appropriate levels of government, local communities and non-governmental organizations shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum local participation. As appropriate, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies may be involved in this process at the request of the affected country Party concerned.

#### Article 4

##### Timetable for preparation of action programmes

Affected country Parties of the region shall finalize the preparation of their national action programmes, and, as appropriate, subregional and/or regional action programmes, as soon as practicable.

#### Article 5

##### Content of national action programmes

In preparing national action programmes in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention, affected country Parties of the region may include, consistent with their respective circumstances, measures relating to the following areas:

- (a) Capacity-building, public education and awareness, technical, scientific and technological cooperation, as well as financial resources and mechanisms;
- (b) Measures to improve the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty and improving living conditions;
- (c) Food security and the sustainable development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, as well as activities cutting across these sectors;
- (d) Land and water conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, especially the sustainable management of drainage basins, and of biological diversity;
- (e) Sustainable management of natural resources in high altitude areas;
- (f) Protection and sustainable exploitation of biological diversity, consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (g) Strengthening or establishment of systems for data collection and assessment and information sharing, encompassing meteorological, hydrological, biological, economic and social variables;
- (h) Development, management and sustainable use of various sources of energy, including the promotion of alternative sources;
- (i) Demographic factors relating to desertification and drought;

(j) Evolution of institutional frameworks aiming at, inter alia, decentralization of administrative structures and functions related to activities to implement the Convention and full participation of local communities in such activities; and

(k) Establishment and/or strengthening of early-warning systems, emergency plans and other activities to mitigate the effects of drought.

#### Article 6

##### Preparation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes

In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, affected country Parties of the region may prepare and implement, as appropriate, subregional action programmes and/or a regional action programme to complement and increase the efficiency of national action programmes.

#### Article 7

##### Technical scientific and technological cooperation

In the implementation of Articles 16, 17 and 18 of the Convention and in the framework of the coordination mechanism set forth in Article 9 of this Annex, affected country Parties of the region shall, individually or jointly:

- (a) Promote the establishment and/or strengthening of national, subregional and regional technological cooperation networks and information systems, as well as their integration into worldwide systems; and
- (b) Prepare inventories of relevant available technology and know-how, particularly traditional and local, and encourage their dissemination and use;
- (c) Identify areas for technological cooperation;
- (d) Promote the development, adaptation and use of new technologies.

#### Article 8

##### Financial resources and mechanisms

In accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention and utilizing, as appropriate, the institutional framework of Article 9 of this Annex, the affected country Parties of the region shall, individually or jointly, in accordance with their national development policies:

- (a) Adopt measures to rationalize and strengthen mechanisms to finance, from both public and private sources, activities to implement national action programmes and, as appropriate subregional and/or regional programmes, with a view to achieving concrete results;

(b) Assess international cooperation requirements and opportunities to provide support for such programmes; and

(c) Promote the participation of bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation institutions in the implementation of action programmes.

#### Article 9

##### Institutional framework

1. Affected country Parties of the region shall establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national institutional frameworks for combatting desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and designate national focal points to coordinate relevant activities. They shall also make appropriate arrangements to link focal points with a view to ensuring relevant coordination among them, inter alia, for the following purposes:

- (a) Exchange of information and sharing of experiences;
- (b) Harmonization of actions at the subregional and regional levels;
- (c) Promotion of scientific, technical, technological and financial cooperation, in accordance with Articles 7 and 8;
- (d) Identification of opportunities and arrangements for cooperation and partnership with country Parties of other regions;
- (e) Follow-up and assessment of the implementation of action programmes.

2. In carrying out their obligations pursuant to paragraph 1, affected country Parties of the region shall hold periodic coordination meetings to which competent organizations may be invited.

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### ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

#### Negotiating text of the regional implementation annex for Asia

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fourth session in Geneva, the INCED requested the Secretariat to draft for its fifth session in Paris the negotiating text of a regional implementation annex for Asia, based on document A/AC.241/CRP.8 submitted by India on behalf of Asian countries. The text is attached for the Committee's consideration.
2. In preparing the negotiating text, the Secretariat took into careful consideration statements by INCED members on this issue during the fourth session. The Secretariat also drew on written submissions received from Governments after that session, containing additional comments and drafting proposals. Finally, the Secretariat benefited from discussion of the text during the sixth meeting of the International Panel of Experts on Desertification.

Annex

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX FOR ASIA

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of the present annex is to provide guidelines and arrangements for the practical and effective implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties of Asia in light of the particular conditions of that region.

Article 2

Particular conditions of the Asian region

In carrying out their obligations pursuant to the provisions of the Convention, the Parties shall take into consideration the following particular conditions which apply in varying degrees to affected countries of Asia:

- (a) The large proportion of affected areas in their territories and the broad diversity of these areas with regard to climate, topography, land use and socio-economic systems;
- (b) The large populations, which rely on natural resources for livelihoods, and high population growth rates;
- (c) The existence of unsustainable production systems, directly related to widespread poverty, leading to land degradation and to pressure on scarce water resources;
- (d) The significant impact on them of conditions in the world economy and the incidence of environmentally displaced persons;
- (e) Their growing, but still insufficient, capacity and institutional frameworks to deal with national desertification problems and to cooperate with each other; and
- (f) Their need for international cooperation, including assistance, to pursue sustainable development objectives relating to combating desertification.

Article 3

Framework for national action programmes

1. National action programmes shall be an integral part of broader national policies for sustainable development of affected country Parties of Asia.

2. A consultative and participatory process involving appropriate levels of government, local communities and non-governmental organizations shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum local participation. As appropriate, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies may be involved in this process at the request of the affected country Party concerned.

#### Article 4

##### Timetable for preparation of action programmes

Affected country Parties of the region shall finalize the preparation of their national action programmes, and, as appropriate, subregional and/or joint action programmes, as soon as practicable.

#### Article 5

##### National action programmes

1. In preparing and implementing national action programmes in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 and other relevant provisions of the Convention, each affected country Party of the region shall, inter alia, as appropriate:

(a) Designate appropriate bodies responsible for the preparation, coordination and implementation of its programme;

(b) Involve affected populations, including local communities, in the elaboration, coordination and implementation of the programme through a locally driven consultative process, with the cooperation of local authorities and relevant non-governmental organizations;

(c) Survey the state of the environment in affected areas to assess the causes and consequences of desertification and to determine priority areas for action;

(d) Evaluate, with the participation of affected communities, past and current programmes for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, in order to design a strategy and elaborate activities in the programme;

(e) Prepare technical and financial programmes translating the information obtained through the activities in subparagraphs (a) to (d);

(f) Develop and utilize procedures and benchmarks for evaluating implementation of the programme; and

(g) Formulate in a spirit of partnership, where international cooperation, including assistance, is involved, appropriate arrangements supporting the programme.

2. Consistent with Article 10 of the Convention, the overall strategy of national programmes shall feature integrated local development programmes for affected areas, based on participatory mechanisms and on integration of strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Sectoral measures in the programmes shall be grouped in priority fields which take account of the broad diversity of affected areas in the region referred to in Article 2 (a), and of Article 10, paragraph 4 of the Convention.

#### Article 6

##### Subregional and joint action programmes

1. In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, affected country Parties of a given subregion in Asia may agree to prepare and implement a subregional action programme in order to complement and increase the efficiency of national action programmes. Selected affected country Parties in a subregion, or of the region as a whole, may also similarly agree to joint action programmes among them. In either case, the relevant Parties may jointly agree to entrust subregional or national organizations, or specialized institutions, with responsibilities relating to the preparation, coordination and implementation of programmes. Such organizations or institutions may also act as focal points and centres for the promotion and coordination of technical cooperation in accordance with Articles 16 to 18 of the Convention.

2. In preparing and implementing subregional or joint action programmes, affected country Parties of the region shall, inter alia, as appropriate:

- (a) Identify, in cooperation with national institutions, national objectives related to desertification and drought which can better be met by such programmes, as well as relevant activities which could be effectively carried out through them;
- (b) Evaluate the operational capacities and activities of relevant subregional and national institutions;
- (c) Assess existing programmes relating to desertification and drought among all or some parties in a subregion and their relationship with national programmes; and
- (d) Formulate in a spirit of partnership, where international cooperation, including assistance, is involved, appropriate bilateral and/or multilateral arrangements supporting the programmes.

3. Subregional or joint action programmes may include measures for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources, priorities for coordination and other activities in the fields of capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation, particularly drought early warning systems and information sharing, and means of strengthening or adding to the capacity of relevant subregional and other organizations or institutions.

Article 7

Regional activities

Regional activities to enhance measures in subregional or joint action programmes may include, inter alia, consultations, capacity building and training activities and systems for sharing expertise, relevant technology, know-how and information, particularly regarding institutional and legal reforms and mechanisms for popular participation.

Article 8

Financial resources and mechanisms

1. The Parties shall ensure that the relative importance of desertification and drought in Asia is reflected in the mobilization of financial resources under Article 20 of the Convention and in the use of financial mechanisms pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention. To this end, they shall work together to strengthen, as necessary, the capacity of United Nations agencies, as well as international financial institutions, to support the national, subregional and joint action programmes of affected country Parties in Asia.

2. Those Parties which are members of the governing bodies of relevant regional and subregional financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank, shall promote efforts to give due priority in the activities of these institutions to sustainable development programmes intended to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

Article 9

Coordination mechanisms

1. Affected country Parties of the region shall, through the national institutions designated pursuant to Article 5 (a), coordinate the preparation, negotiation and implementation of national and subregional or joint action programmes. They may involve, as appropriate, other Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in this process. Such coordination shall, inter alia, seek to secure agreement on opportunities for international cooperation in accordance with Articles 20 and 21, enhance technical cooperation, and channel resources so that they are used effectively.

2. Arrangements for cooperation may include the establishment of a consultative group or groups comprising affected country Parties belonging to concerned subregions or a group of affected country Parties of the region, developed country Parties, other Parties as appropriate, and relevant global, regional and subregional organizations, including non-governmental organizations. Among its functions, the consultative group or groups may:

(a) Offer advice on and identify sources of and opportunities for financial and technical cooperation in the preparation and implementation of national, subregional and joint action programmes, make appropriate arrangements for such cooperation, and serve as a forum for the conclusion of relevant bilateral/multilateral agreements;

(b) Assist relevant country Parties to provide the Conference of the Parties with relevant information, pursuant to Article 26 of the Convention, and assist in the preparation of an inventory of the flow of funds in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention; and

(c) Perform other mutually agreed tasks.

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Fifth session  
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Agenda item 2

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION  
IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,  
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Negotiating text of the regional implementation annex for Europe

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fourth session in Geneva, the INCDC requested the Secretariat to draft for its fifth session in Paris the negotiating text of various regional implementation annexes. Attached for the Committee's consideration is the text of a regional implementation annex for Europe based on document A/AC.241/CRP.10, submitted by Greece on behalf of three northern Mediterranean countries.
2. This document is entitled "Regional implementation annex for Europe" for reasons of consistency with the other regional implementation annexes.

Annex

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX FOR EUROPE

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of this annex is to provide guidelines and arrangements necessary for the practical and effective implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean subregion of Europe in light of the particular conditions of that subregion.

Article 2

Particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean subregion

The particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean subregion referred to in Article 1 include:

- (a) Semi-arid climatic conditions affecting large areas, seasonal droughts, very high rainfall variability and sudden and high intensity rainfall;
- (b) Poor and highly erodible soils, prone to develop surface crusts;
- (c) Uneven relief with steep slopes and very diversified landscapes;
- (d) Extensive forest coverage losses due to frequent wildfires;
- (e) Crisis conditions in traditional agriculture with associated land abandonment and deterioration of soil and water conservation structures;
- (f) Unsustainable exploitation of water resources leading to serious environmental damage, including exhaustion, chemical pollution and salinization of aquifers;
- (g) Concentration of economic activity in coastal areas as a result of growth of urbanization, industrial activities, tourism and irrigated agriculture.

Article 3

Strategic planning framework for sustainable development

1. National action programmes shall be a central and integral part of the strategic planning framework for sustainable development of the affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean.
2. A consultative and participatory process, involving appropriate levels of government, local communities and non-governmental organizations, shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum local participation.

Article 4

Obligation to prepare a national action programme and timetable

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 9, affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean subregion shall prepare national action programmes and, as appropriate, subregional or joint action programmes. The preparation of such programmes shall be finalized as soon as practicable.

Article 5

Preparation and implementation of national action programmes

In preparing and implementing national action programmes in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention, each affected country Party of the subregion shall, as appropriate:

- (a) Designate appropriate bodies responsible for the preparation, coordination and implementation of its programme;
- (b) Involve affected populations, including local communities, in the elaboration, coordination and implementation of the programme through a locally driven consultative process, with the cooperation of local authorities and relevant non-governmental organizations;
- (c) Survey the state of the environment in affected areas to assess the causes and consequences of desertification and to determine priority areas for action;
- (d) Evaluate, with the participation of affected communities, past and current programmes in order to design a strategy and elaborate activities in the action programme;
- (e) Prepare technical and financial programmes based on the information gained through the activities in subparagraphs (a) to (d);
- (f) Develop and utilize procedures and bench-marks for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programme.

Article 6

Content of national action programmes

Affected country Parties of the subregion may include, in their national action programmes, measures in the following areas:

- (a) Legislative, institutional and administrative measures;
- (b) Measures relating to land use patterns, management of water resources, soil conservation, forestry, agricultural activities and pasture and range management;

- (c) Management and conservation of wildlife and other forms of biological diversity;
- (d) Protection against forest fires;
- (e) Promotion of alternative livelihoods; and
- (f) Research, training and public awareness.

#### Article 7

##### Subregional and joint action programmes

1. Affected country Parties of the subregion may, in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, prepare and implement a subregional action programme in order to complement and increase the efficiency of national action programmes. Selected country Parties of the subregion, may similarly agree to prepare a joint action programme among them.
2. The provisions of Articles 5 and 6 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the preparation and implementation of subregional and joint action programmes. In addition, such programmes may include the conduct of research and development activities concerning selected ecosystems in affected areas.
3. In preparing and implementing subregional or joint action programmes, affected country Parties of the subregion shall, as appropriate:
  - (a) Identify, in cooperation with national institutions, national objectives related to desertification which can better be met by such programmes, as well as relevant activities which could be effectively carried out through them;
  - (b) Evaluate the operational capacities and activities of relevant subregional and national institutions; and
  - (c) Assess existing programmes relating to desertification among Parties of the subregion and their relationship with national action programmes.

#### Article 8

##### Coordination of subregional and joint action programmes

Affected country Parties preparing a subregional or joint action programme may establish a coordination committee composed of representatives of each affected Party concerned to review progress in combating desertification, harmonize national action programmes, make recommendations in the various stages of preparation and implementation of the subregional or joint action programme, and act as a focal point for the promotion and coordination of technical cooperation in accordance with Articles 16 to 19 of the Convention.

Article 9

Coordination with other subregions and regions

Subregional and joint action programmes in the northern Mediterranean subregion may be prepared and implemented in collaboration with those of other subregions or regions, particularly the action programmes in the subregion of northern Africa.

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